

John Givan, *Montevideo American-News*

Declaration will bring recovery resources to flood-ravaged areas

Montevideo, MN — U.S. Sens. Amy Klobuchar and Al Franken (D-Minn.) and U.S. Reps. Collin Peterson and Betty McCollum (D-Minn.) announced that the major disaster declaration issued recently by President Obama has been expanded to 13 additional Minnesota counties, as well as the Red Lake Tribal Nation. The announcement will trigger federal resources to help these areas recover from major spring flooding.

"Many Minnesotans are still facing the damage from this spring's devastating floods," said Sen. Klobuchar. "This declaration will ensure that even more communities receive the assistance they need to help our families and businesses recover."

"I'm very pleased that the president has expanded his federal disaster declaration to these flooded Minnesota communities," said Sen. Franken. "This spring, I toured flood-ravaged areas in the Red River Valley and saw firsthand the damage caused by rising floodwaters. This declaration will help these communities get back on their feet and help them prevent flooding in the future. My staff and I will continue to work with state and local officials to get these resources out to local communities as quickly as possible."

"This year's flooding has once again caused extensive damage to public infrastructure across the state, and this declaration will bring needed relief to already strapped cities and counties impacted by this disaster," said Rep. Peterson.

"In the wake of this year's flooding across Minnesota, the federal government will be a partner with state and local efforts to ensure that our communities will get a jumpstart on recovery," said Rep. McCollum. "My St. Paul office is here to provide any assistance to affected Minnesotans who have questions or need immediate assistance."

The additional areas designated for public assistance in the federal declaration are Becker, Beltrami, Kittson, Marshall, Norman, Otter Tail, Polk, Ramsey, Red Lake, Roseau, Swift, Washington, and Wright counties and the Red Lake Tribal Nation.

The declaration means that the Federal Emergency Management Agency will cover 75 percent of the cost of repairing or replacing public infrastructure in the designated counties. It also includes hazard mitigation funds that can help communities to take steps to prevent damage from future flooding.